Pass percentage of students

982. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that, according to a Government report on elementary education released on 22nd January, 2008, only 43 per cent of students in Government schools pass with more than 60 per cent marks, with girls doing slightly better than boys;

(b) whether, at upper primary level, only 39 per cent students pass with a first class; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons for the flaws in the quality of education that the learning abilities of students do not improve much while going for elementary education?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) National University of Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA) collects elementary school statistics annually through the District Information System for Education (DISE) from all districts in the country.

According to DISE data 2006-07, 45.04% students passed with 60% and above marks, at the exit classes of the primary stage. Girls have performed slightly better than boys, and the percentage of girls and boys passing with 60% and above marks is 45.12% and 44.96% respectively. At the upper primary level, 39.40% students passed with 60% and above marks.

Under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, serveral activities have been undertaken to improve the quality of elementary education. This includes recruitment of 8.32 lakh additional teachers to improve the pupil teacher ratio, in-service training of teachers for a period of 20 days every year, free distribution of text books for primary and upper primary classes to about 6.5 crore Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and girls students, academic support to primary and upper primary schools through 6395 Block Resource Centres and 6835 cluster Resource Centres and regular evaluation of students.

Unfilled seats for SCs and STs

983. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many seats allotted to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in professional colleges remained unfilled by students of these categories;

(b) if so, the number of such unfilled seats during the last three years, year-wise, State-wise, course-wise and category-wise;

(c) whether there is any decision to impose two restrictions on the grant Post Matric Scholarships to Scheduled Caste students joining professional courses;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether steps would be taken to withdraw the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be placed on the table of the House.